

5 Douglas Terrace  
Montague St  
Albert Park  
15 Sept 1883

My dear Andrew,

I must pray you not to think that my somewhat lengthened silence arises from neglect or indifference which absence is said to breed. I trust my love is not "a plant of such ~~of~~ such weak fibre that it withers in the treacherous air of absence" (the old man again). I have postponed writing to you in the desire to write you a good long letter; but whatever the outcome is I must write you now.

There is not much for me to chronicle since I last wrote. I am very thankful to say my health continues good in all respects, and I am certainly far better than I have been for some years past. I lead a regular life and take care

of myself, and I feel I am laying  
up a stock of energy, which will  
be of service to me, when the  
time comes to make greater  
demands on myself than I have  
to do at present. I am still  
in Wyburns office; and without  
solicitation he increased my  
salary to £130 a year, in consideration  
of my doing some account work  
for him during office hours -  
This work doesn't amount to much,  
and I jog along with a serenity  
unknown to my L & B slavery.  
In a letter to Dobbie I drew  
a rough sketch of G. J. Wyburn  
which I needn't, therefore, repeat  
here. He is certainly a curious  
stick, but I get along with him  
very well. He has some odd  
ways of conducting business - one  
of his peculiarities is to ~~to~~ perpetually  
have drafts made for prospective ad-  
verts copy former drafts word for

word on half sheets of foolscap  
writing on every other line, and  
when he uses these he adapts  
them by making red ink alterations.

Of course there are folios upon  
folios of irrelevant stuff; but  
this doesn't trouble him a bit.

The most remarkable thing is that  
he hardly ever uses these drafts, but  
has drafts specially made for matters  
in hand. Hence there are piles  
of drafts continually being added to  
which are so much waste paper  
and waste time. Another of his fads  
is that he examines every mortal  
thing written in the office - fancy  
a principal doing all this! - Another  
of his cheerful practices is to engage  
counsel in pretty well everything that  
he does. There was a case in the  
County Court this week, in which he  
had engaged a barrister of good  
standing (Cheon), the (Wybrow) and

two of his clerks were up at Court  
the better part of the day - The  
sum at issue was £2 - and as  
£1. 10 was paid into Court all  
this eruption was about 10 bob -  
of course a Barrister must be  
engaged in Court work, but Wyburn  
employ them to a ridiculous excess -  
If you could see his Bills of  
Costs they'd stun you. They are  
studded with Counsel's fees. I didn't  
know what a Bill of Costs could  
be till I studied the works of this  
Old Master -

You are of course aware that  
the Judicature Bill has passed,  
and will come into operation in  
February next. There is a great  
diversity of opinion as to the wisdom  
of the change. I don't think the  
Public are likely to benefit by it on  
the score of cheap <sup>and quick issue of</sup> Law. The experience  
of the English practice points to the fact  
that the technique can be introduced

as much as ever and the demurrable business flourishes finely - These opinions are founded on conversations I have had with Walter.

You will be pleased to hear that Walter's health has manifestly improved, and we are going to take some walks together soon - a pleasure which his weak state has hitherto deprived me of. His mother and sisters are also quite well - Perhaps you might communicate these matters to J.M.G. for I don't think he has written or been written to for some time -

I have not been to public places much for a good time past. I heard Poussard the French Violinist - His execution is extremely brilliant but in real moving power he is far below William F. - I also went one night to the Bijou and saw the the Clapions in "Jealousy". They are artists; and I think it is the best thing in the dramatic way I have seen here - indeed, I am sure of it.

I saw them in Hobart in the same play; but age cannot further nor custom &c such acting as this. I heard the Bishop of Melbourne for the first time the week before last. He took the chair at a meeting of the University Oratorical Society held at the Athenaeum. It was an address ~~the~~ speech he made - he was evidently in the comical vein. Deakin & Purves were also among the speakers.

I go every Sunday morning to the little temple on the Eastern where Priestess Patty dispense the truths of rational Christianity. Her sermons have not been of especial note, but they are all up to a good average, and I am very well pleased to hear them. I notice she <sup>sometimes</sup> wears a large ebony & gold cross. I think she looks better without this little ritualism.

I have not yet called upon her  
privately, but I mean to do so -  
The congregation is limited but  
appears refined and earnest; and  
I think I have before told you  
that the choir is a fine one.  
After service, which concludes at  
10 minutes past 12 I walk into  
the Library or Treasury Gardens,  
and particularly at this time  
my thoughts are wandering back  
to all I am now parted from.

There have been some lovely  
days during the last three weeks;  
and there have also been some very  
bad ones - last Monday & Tuesday  
were close and sultry, with a North  
wind blowing all the time. On  
Wednesday the wind veered to the  
South, and it was extremely cool  
with heavy rain - So far back as  
the Sunday before last there was  
a gigantic dust storm which enveloped  
the city and suburbs in heavy yellow clouds.

What must it be like in Summer!  
I feel all gritty at the thought -

I am familiarising myself  
with that grand institution - the  
Public Library, so far as my time  
will allow - I confine myself  
at present to the Colonial department  
from which I have gleaned  
some interesting matter - The  
Picture Gallery is now lit up  
an evening with electric light,  
but I have not been yet to see  
it under these conditions, I  
understand it is satisfactory.

My lodgings are still as desirable  
as heretofore - The mercantile clerk  
has left us - gone to Sandhurst - and  
his place has been taken by  
an Engineer from Stockton on Tees  
with an accent redolent of the  
Northern provinces - I have been  
promoted to the head of the table  
and do the paterfamilias quite a la mode



I am in receipt of your letter about the English suit - just before I received it, I called at <sup>Henderson's</sup> Messrs and saw Bull their town law manager, who showed me some papers received from England in this matter on behalf of my Uncle William Winton for whom they act. These did not disclose all the information you gave me, but they led me to anticipate that things would not turn out very bright - Well, do no use fretting about the matter. My only trouble now is that you may be refunded and remunerated for your services - There is another anchor out yet, the reversionary interest, and I am deeply anxious that this should, inasmuch as it may be a providential means for me to relieve myself of that indebtedness which weighs so much on my spirits at times - The indebtedness in its pecuniary aspect might be lightened, although

there would remain another  
indebtedness, which would be far  
more a pleasure than a pain for  
me to remain under, seeing that  
it would bind my heart still  
closer to the creditors - of course,  
any communication from England  
to me here, shall be notified to you  
at once.

When you write don't forget  
to tell me about the Minerva Club.  
I heard that A. J. and Geo: Richardson  
were to be proposed as members.  
Taylor will be an acquisition, if  
certain manumissions of his can be  
repressed. Richardson I rather  
liked from what little I have had  
to do with him; but he is one  
of the last individuals I should  
have thought to have seen, in  
fancy, hanging upon the lips of  
the Satirical Rm, or the you-  
can't-see-me-for-dust. Lucy.

So, Ivey and "The Nestor of  
the Choice Spirits" have plunged  
head over ears into avowed  
Spiritualism - Willie says that the  
former~~er~~ is rationally gone; but  
the latter is idiotically so - My  
~~sect~~<sup>sweet</sup> ex-jew will caper round the  
word on his beam of light in  
grand form now - What does Rule  
think of it I wonder - May I be  
heckled into the middle of the  
Effulgent Hecce if I am not  
heckled most mightily at this new  
departure -

I have not ~~done~~ much literary  
reading since I have been here -  
The three principal books have  
been Byron's life & letters, Biography  
of William Beane, and portions of  
Balzac's Comédie Humaine - I also  
got through Paul & Virginia in the  
bench reading and marking it up  
as I travelled in the train during the  
day.

Please commend me to Mrs. Clark  
I beg her to accept my best regards -  
And Fanny & Johnny, too, - how  
are the radicals? Whatever position  
they are in when this comes to hand  
- that is whether they are undergoing  
discipline for any offence or not,  
they must be kissed for Budder  
fore at once, Dioci.

Brotherly regards to Willie & Edard.  
I shall be writing to the former presently.  
Shi up the latter - he owes me a  
letter. Please also convey my best  
wishes to Ivey - I must have  
something on the stocks for him.

My hand in yours, dear  
Andrew. I dare to think we are  
sundered only by a few miles of land  
and sea, and that what has been  
between us lives on as before. I dare  
to think that your affection is in no way  
changed, and that I may be permitted  
to justify it ~~as time goes on~~. Ever affectionately yours  
O. W. F. H. W.